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JCO6 Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 MAR 2005

VIA Express Mail EL629489153US

PATENT
38195.64

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re. application of : Kanji TANAKA et al.	International Application No.: PCT/JP03/012305
Serial No.: Unknown	International Filing Date: September 26, 2003
Filed: Concurrently herewith	
For: BINDING DEVICE	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and in recognition of his duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office relevant information known to be material to patentability, Applicants herewith submit a copy of prior art reference nos. 2 and 3, JP 2000-052680 and JP 10-337988, listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Prior art reference nos. 1 and 2, U.S. 5,286,128 and JP 2000-052680, were cited in the attached International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/JP03/012305.

The relevance of the prior art reference no. 3, JP 10-337988, is discussed on page 1 of the specification.

Applicants have not included a copy of the U.S. Patent No. 5,286,128 (reference no. 1) because it is no longer required.

The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the disclosed references be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 25, 2005



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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.